

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

ANA GARCÍA-ROSADO,

Plaintiff,

v.

SCOTIABANK, et al.,

Defendants.

Civil No. 12-1383 (JAF)

OPINION AND ORDER

Plaintiff Ana García-Rosado (“Plaintiff”) filed suit against Defendant Scotiabank (“Scotiabank”), alleging age discrimination, in violation of P.R. Law No. 100, of June 30, 1959, as amended, 29 L.P.R.A. § 146 et seq. (“Law 100”); and unjust dismissal, in violation of P.R. Law No. 80, as amended, L.P.R.A. § 185a, et seq. (“Law 80”). Plaintiff originally filed suit in Puerto Rico’s Court of First Instance in Fajardo. (Docket No. 1-7.¹) Intervenor-Defendant, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”), then removed to this court.² (Docket No. 1.) The FDIC moved for dismissal under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6). (Docket No. 18.) Defendant Scotiabank moved for summary judgment under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56.³ (Docket No. 17.) Plaintiff opposed both motions, (Docket Nos. 21, 22), Defendants responded (Docket Nos. 29, 34, 35), and Plaintiff replied (Docket No. 33). For the following reasons, we deny Defendants’ motion to dismiss and motion for summary judgment.

¹ An English translation of the complaint is available at Docket No. 22-31.

² We denied Plaintiff’s motion to remand. (Docket No. 9.)

³ The FDIC joined Scotiabank’s motion for summary judgment. (Docket Nos. 20; 30.)

I.**Factual Synopsis**

We derive the following facts from the parties' motions and responses, statements of facts, and exhibits. (Docket Nos. 17-1; 17-2; 18; 21; 22; 22-1; 22-2; 22-3; 22-4; 22-5.)

Plaintiff Ana García-Rosado ("Plaintiff") is a fifty-seven year old woman from Puerto Rico. Beginning in February 1998, until 2010, Plaintiff worked at the Fajardo branch of RG Premier Bank. (Docket No. 22-2.) RG Premier Bank was a bank in Puerto Rico that offered business and consumer financial services. (Docket No. 17-2 at 1.)

In April 2010, Puerto Rico's Office of the Commissioner for Financial Institutions ("OCFI") assumed control of RG Premier Bank and appointed the FDIC as receiver. (Docket No. 17-2 at 2.) The FDIC assumed control of RG Bank's assets and liabilities. (*Id.*) On the same day, April 30, 2010, Scotiabank acquired most of the branches of RG Premier Bank, including the branch where Plaintiff worked in Fajardo. (Docket No. 22-2.) Scotiabank and the FDIC entered into a Purchase and Assumption Agreement ("P&A Agreement") that detailed the contractual arrangements. (Docket Nos. 17-2 at 4; 17-6.)

The next day, on Saturday, May 1, Plaintiff reported for work as she normally did, and worked without interruption. (Docket No. 22-1.) On May 2, 2010, Scotiabank executives held a meeting at the Caribe Hilton Hotel with bank employees. (*Id.*) Plaintiff alleges that at this meeting, she and other employees were given assurances regarding their continued employment with Scotiabank. (*Id.*) Specifically, Scotiabank executives told the bank employees that they were planning to make the best possible bank by combining the

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1 strengths of RG and Scotiabank. (Id. at 6.) One of the strengths of RG Bank, the executives
2 added, had always been its people. Plaintiff continued working after that.

3 During the month of May, Scotiabank initiated a publicity campaign whose motto
4 was “RG with the strength of Scotiabank.” (Docket No. 22-1 at 6.) Scotiabank also issued
5 press releases assuring RG clients that they would see little variation in their bank branches
6 and would find the same RG employees they dealt with before the acquisition. (Id.) During
7 this time, pursuant to the P&A agreement entered into with the FDIC, Scotiabank was
8 responsible for paying the salaries of RG’s employees. (Id.)

9 Some days after the May 2 meeting, Plaintiff was called into an office to sign a
10 contract with a firm called C.D. Mitchell & Co. (Id.) Plaintiff was told that she would not
11 be paid for her past time worked unless she signed the contract. (Id.) The contract was
12 dated April 30, though Scotiabank’s own employees admit that it could only have been
13 signed several days after that. (Docket No. 22-5 at 33.) Plaintiff states that she signed the
14 document one to two weeks after April 30. (Docket No. 22-2.) Plaintiff did not have an
15 opportunity to consult an attorney before signing. (Id.) C.D. Mitchell is a separate
16 corporation than Scotiabank. (Docket No. 17-2 at 3.) The FDIC recommended C.D.
17 Mitchell to Scotiabank, which then contracted independently with C.D. Mitchell. (Id. at 4.)

18 On May 22, 2010, Plaintiff was told that her employment was being terminated. In
19 June, Scotiabank hired most of the other RG Bank employees (other than Plaintiff) for
20 permanent positions. (Docket No. 17-3.)

21

II.**Legal Standards****A. Motion to Dismiss****1. Rule 12(b)(1)**

A defendant may move to dismiss an action against him under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) for lack of federal subject matter jurisdiction. Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(1). “When a defendant moves to dismiss for lack of federal subject matter jurisdiction, ‘the party invoking the jurisdiction of a federal court carries the burden of proving its existence.’” Johansen v. United States, 506 F.3d 65, 68 (1st Cir.2007) (citing Murphy v. United States, 45 F.3d 520, 522 (1st Cir.1995)).

Rule 12(b)(1) provides a “large umbrella, overspreading a variety of different types of challenges to subject-matter jurisdiction.” Valentin v. Hosp. Bella Vista, 254 F.3d 358, 362-63 (1st Cir. 2001). A movant may base a challenge to the sufficiency of the plaintiff’s assertion of subject matter jurisdiction solely on the pleadings. Id. at 363. In that case, we take the plaintiff’s “jurisdictionally-significant facts as true” and “assess whether the plaintiff has propounded an adequate basis for subject-matter jurisdiction.” Id. at 363; Pejepscot Indus. Park, Inc. v. Me. Cent. R.R. Co., 215 F.3d 195, 197 (1st Cir.2000).

2. Rule 12(b)(6)

A defendant may move to dismiss an action, based solely on the complaint, for the plaintiff’s “failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). In assessing such a motion, we “accept[] all well-pleaded facts as true, and we

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1 draw all reasonable inferences in favor of the [plaintiff].” Wash. Legal Found. v. Mass. Bar
2 Found., 993 F.2d 962, 971 (1st Cir. 1993).

3 “[A]n adequate complaint must provide fair notice to the defendants and state a
4 facially plausible legal claim.” Ocasio-Hernández v. Fortuño-Burset, 640 F.3d 1, 12 (1st
5 Cir. 2011). In considering a complaint’s adequacy, we disregard “statements in the
6 complaint that merely offer legal conclusions couched as fact or threadbare recitals of the
7 elements of a cause of action.” Id. (internal quotation marks omitted). We then take as true
8 what remains, “[n]onconclusory factual allegations . . . even if seemingly incredible.” Id.
9 On the basis of those properly pled facts, we assess the “reasonableness of the inference of
10 liability that the plaintiff is asking the court to draw.” Id. at 13.

11

12 **B. Summary Judgment Under Rule 56**

13 We must grant a motion for summary judgment “if the pleadings, the discovery and
14 disclosure materials on file, and any affidavits show that there is no genuine dispute as to
15 any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ.
16 P. 56(a). A factual dispute is “genuine” if it could be resolved in favor of either party and
17 “material” if it potentially affects the outcome of the case. Calero-Cerezo v. U.S. Dep’t of
18 Justice, 355 F.3d 6, 19 (1st Cir. 2004).

19 The movant carries the burden of establishing that there is no genuine dispute as to
20 any material fact. Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 325 (1986). The movant may
21 satisfy this burden by “citing to particular parts of materials in the record, including
22 depositions, documents, electronically stored information, affidavits or declarations, . . . or

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1 other materials.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(1)(A). Furthermore, to establish the absence of a
2 genuine dispute of material fact, the movant need not produce evidence but may instead
3 point to a lack of evidence supporting the nonmovant’s case. See Fed. R. Civ. P.
4 56(c)(1)(B); see also Celotex, 477 U.S. at 325. “Once the moving party has made a
5 preliminary showing that no genuine [dispute] of material fact exists, the nonmovant must
6 produce specific facts, in suitable evidentiary form, to establish the presence of a trialworthy
7 [dispute].” Clifford v. Barnhart, 449 F.3d 276, 280 (1st Cir. 2006) (internal quotation marks
8 omitted); see also Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(1).

9 In evaluating a motion for summary judgment, we must view the record in the light
10 most favorable to the nonmovant. See Reeves v. Sanderson Plumbing Prods., 530 U.S. 133,
11 150–51 (2000). “The court need consider only the cited materials, but it may consider other
12 materials in the record.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(3).

13 14 III.

15 Analysis

16 We first address the motion to dismiss and then the motion for summary judgment.
17 For the reasons discussed below, we deny both motions.

18 A. Motion to Dismiss

19 The FDIC argues that Plaintiff’s claims should be dismissed. (Docket No. 18.) The
20 FDIC frames its arguments as a motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, and
21 a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim. We find that under either theory, the FDIC’s
22 arguments fail.

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1 The FDIC presents three arguments in its motion to dismiss: 1) Plaintiff's termination
2 from RG Premier Bank was justified under Puerto Rico's Law 80; 2) Plaintiff's claims are
3 barred because she failed to comply with the administrative remedies laid out in the
4 Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989 ("FIRREA"),⁴ 12
5 U.S.C. § 1821(d)(3)-(13); 3) the P&A Agreement explicitly assigns liability to the FDIC,
6 and to the extent that Puerto Rico's Law 80 is in conflict with the agreement, it is preempted
7 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. §1811 et seq. ("FDI Act"). (Docket Nos.
8 18; 29 at 1-2.) For the reasons explained below, we reject each of these arguments.

9 First, the FDIC argues that the reason for Plaintiff's dismissal from RG Premier Bank
10 was RG Bank's insolvency, and therefore, Plaintiff's termination was for "just cause" under
11 Puerto Rico Law 80. (Docket No. 18 at 2.) The FDIC does not cite to any case law or
12 specific statutory provisions in support of this argument. In fact, we were unable to find any
13 references to this argument beyond one or two sentences in the introductions of the
14 FDIC's motion and reply brief. (Docket Nos. 18; 29.) The argument is thus likely waived.
15 See United States v. Zannino, 895 F.2d 1, 17 (1st Cir. 1990) ("[I]ssues adverted to in a
16 perfunctory manner, unaccompanied by some effort at developed argumentation, are
17 deemed waived").

18 In any case, the FDIC's first argument fails on the merits as well, because Plaintiff
19 does not argue that she was dismissed from RG Premier Bank; she argues that she was

⁴ In 1989, Congress passed FIRREA to amend the bank insolvency provisions of the "FDI Act," 12 U.S.C. § 1811 et seq. In its motion, the FDIC refers to the amended version of the "FDI Act," which includes FIRREA, rather than to FIRREA in particular. (See Docket No. 18 at 5.)

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1 dismissed from Scotiabank. (Docket No. 21 at 2.) Plaintiff provides several factual
2 assertions that make this claim plausible: she states that she has never received any
3 documents evidencing her dismissal from RG Premier Bank, despite her repeated requests;
4 she also states that she went to work uninterrupted on May 1 and received repeated
5 reassurances that her employment with Scotiabank was stable. If Plaintiff was in fact
6 dismissed by Scotiabank, and not RG Premier Bank, the FDIC's argument about the reasons
7 for her dismissal from RG Premier Bank has no bearing.

8 The FDIC's second argument is that Plaintiff cannot pursue a claim against
9 Scotiabank because she did not comply with the claims procedures outlined in FIRREA.
10 (Docket No. 18 at 6-11.) In her opposition, Plaintiff responds that FIRREA does not apply
11 to her because she was not a creditor at the time RG Premier became insolvent. (Docket
12 No. 21 at 2.) We agree with Plaintiff.

13 FIRREA provides an administrative process for presenting and resolving claims
14 against a failed banking institution. To strengthen the speed and finality of this
15 administrative process, courts are deprived jurisdiction over the following claims:

- 16 (i) any claim or action for payment from, or any action seeking a
17 determination of rights with respect to, the assets of any depository
18 institution for which the [FDIC] has been appointed receiver, including
19 assets which the [FDIC] may acquire from itself as such receiver; or
20 (ii) any claim relating to any act or omission of such institution or the
21 [FDIC] as receiver.

22
23 12 U.S.C. § 1821(d)(13)(D).

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1 Yet, as many other courts have noted, FIRREA's reach does not extend to "all
2 litigation involving an FDIC receivership; the test is whether the claims are against the
3 failed institution or its receiver, and therefore susceptible to administrative resolution."
4 Alvarado-Rivera v. Oriental Bank & Trust, Civ. No. 11-1458, 2012 WL 4679908, at *4
5 (D.P.R. Aug. 8, 2012) (collecting cases), adopted by Rivera v. Oriental Bank & Trust, Civ.
6 No. 11-1458, 2012 WL 4678864 (D.P.R. Sep. 28, 2012). In Alvarado-Rivera, the
7 magistrate judge rejected the FDIC's argument that FIRREA deprived it of jurisdiction. Id.
8 We adopt much of the well-reasoned and thoughtful analysis of that court, which ruled on
9 very similar facts to the ones presented here. See id. (recommending denial of FDIC's
10 motion to dismiss in Law 80 suit brought by plaintiff employees against successor bank).

11 Here, Plaintiff's claims are against Scotiabank, not the FDIC or the failed bank.
12 Therefore, FIRREA does not apply to Plaintiff's claims, which accrued after Scotiabank
13 assumed control of the bank. See Benson v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., 673 F.3d 1207
14 (9th Cir. 2012) ("As a matter of first impression, claims based on a purchasing bank's
15 actions after purchasing a failed bank are not governed by FIRREA"); Am. Nat'l Ins. Co. v.
16 FDIC, 642 F.3d 1137, 1142 (D.C. Cir. 2011) ("In FIRREA, the word 'claim' is a term-of-art
17 that refers only to claims that are resolvable through the FIRREA administrative process,
18 and the only claims that are resolvable through the administrative process are claims against
19 a depository institution for which the FDIC is receiver."). Because Plaintiff's claims are
20 against Scotiabank, not the FDIC or RG Premier Bank, FIRREA does not apply. Am. Nat'l
21 Ins. Co., 642 F.3d at 1142.

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1 The FDIC's third argument is that the P&A Agreement between the FDIC and
2 Scotiabank assigns all liability from RG Premier Bank to the FDIC; thus, to the extent Law
3 80 contradicts the P&A, it is preempted. (Docket No. 18 at 11.) We reject this argument as
4 well, for the same reason we rejected the FDIC's jurisdictional argument. The P&A
5 Agreement could only assign liability to the FDIC for liabilities that had already accrued
6 when Scotiabank entered the agreement. Scotiabank could not enter into an agreement with
7 the FDIC that isolated it from legal judgments for actions it would take in the future. That is
8 exactly what Plaintiff claims happened here: after Scotiabank acquired RG Premier Bank's
9 assets from the FDIC, she continued to work for Scotiabank for a time, until she was
10 unjustly terminated. The P&A Agreement cannot insulate Scotiabank from this claim. See
11 Alvarado-Rivera, 2012 WL 4679908, at *8 ("Since the alleged factual predicate for
12 plaintiffs' claims did not occur until after the asset sale to [Scotiabank], these claims cannot
13 be characterized as claims against [RG Premier Bank], and thus could never have been
14 retained by the FDIC-R."). We thus reject FDIC's third and final argument as well.

15 For the foregoing reasons, the FDIC's motion to dismiss will be denied.

16 **B. Motion for Summary Judgment**

17 Defendant Scotiabank argues that it is entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiff's
18 Law 80 and Law 100 claims. We analyze the Law 80 claim before briefly turning to the
19 Law 100 claim.

20 With respect to Plaintiff's Law 80 claims, Scotiabank makes three arguments: 1)
21 Plaintiff has no claim against Scotiabank, because Scotiabank was not RG Premier's

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1 successor and Plaintiff never became an employee of Scotiabank; 2) Scotiabank never
 2 agreed in the P&A Agreement to assume successor liability for RG Premier; and 3) Law 80
 3 does not cover temporary employees such as Plaintiff who are hired only for a short term.
 4 (Docket No. 17-1.) For the following reasons, we reject each of these arguments.

5 Law 80 provides a severance pay as the exclusive remedy for covered employees
 6 “contracted without a fixed term, who is discharged from his/her employment without just
 7 cause.” Otero-Burgos v. Interamerican Univ., 558 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2009) (quoting 29
 8 L.P.R.A. § 185a). In cases in which the statute applies, the employer is forced to pay the
 9 discharged employee a “mesada,” or severance payment, calculated by a formula contained
 10 in the statute. Id. (citing § 185a).

11 29 L.P.R.A. § 185f provides:

12 In the case of transfer of a going business, if the new acquirer continues to use
 13 the services of the employees who were working with the former owner, such
 14 employees shall be credited with the time they have worked in the basis under
 15 former owners. In the event that the new acquirer chooses not to continue with
 16 the services of all or any of the employees and hence does not become their
 17 employer, the former employer shall be liable for the compensation provided
 18 herein, and the purchaser shall retain the corresponding amount from the
 19 selling price stipulated with respect to the business. In case he discharges them
 20 without good cause after the transfer, the new owner shall be liable for any
 21 benefit which may accrue under §§ 185a-185m of this title to the employee
 22 laid off, there being established also a lien on the business sold, to answer for
 23 the amount of the claim.

24
 25 Id.

26
 27 The determination of whether one business is the successor to another is “primarily
 28 factual in nature and is based upon the totality of the circumstances of a given situation.”

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1 Fall River Dyeing & Finishing Corp. v. NLRB, 482 U.S. 27, 43 (1987) (internal quotations
2 and citations omitted); see also Asseo v. Centro Medico del Turabo, Inc., 900 F.2d 445, 451
3 (1st Cir. 1990). A court must also ask whether the new company has “acquired substantial
4 assets of the its predecessor and continued, without interruption or substantial change, the
5 predecessor’s business operations.” Id.

6 On the factual record presented here, we think that Plaintiff has presented a genuine
7 dispute as to whether Scotiabank can be considered RG Premier’s successor. Plaintiff has
8 shown that Scotiabank did “acquire substantial assets of [RG Premier] and continued,
9 without interruption or substantial change, the predecessor’s business operations.” Id. RG
10 Premier’s banking operations did continue without interruption, resuming normally the very
11 next day after the FDIC took control as receiver. Scotiabank also emphasized to the public
12 and to its new employees that they could expect continuity between the two banks,
13 including its people.

14 We find that Plaintiff has also presented a genuine dispute as to whether she ever
15 became an employee of Scotiabank for the purposes of Law 80. Plaintiff has shown that
16 after Scotiabank took control of RG Premier Bank’s assets, it continued to operate the bank
17 branch where Plaintiff worked, without interruption. Plaintiff reported to work as she
18 normally did, and received assurances that her employment with Scotiabank would
19 continue. During this time, Scotiabank admits that it was responsible for paying the salaries
20 of the failed bank’s employees, including Plaintiff’s.

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1 In addition to the evidence that Plaintiff presented, we also considered Scotiabank's
2 arguments and supporting facts. We concluded that two material fact statements by
3 Scotiabank were either unsupported or contradicted by the record. In its "Statement of
4 Uncontested Facts," Scotiabank writes that "On that same date [April 30, 2010], the FDIC
5 notified all of RG Premier Bank's employees, including Plaintiff, that their employment had
6 been terminated effective immediately . . ." (SUMF 9, see Docket No. 17-2 at 3.) To
7 support this assertion, Scotiabank cites a paragraph in its own Notice of Removal. (Id.;
8 Docket No. 1) A party's own notice of removal is not the type of evidence "properly
9 considered on summary judgment." See D.P.R.R. 56(e) ("The court may disregard any
10 statement of fact not supported by a specific citation to record material properly considered
11 on summary judgment."). Moreover, Plaintiff has contradicted Scotiabank's assertion by
12 stating that neither the FDIC nor RG Premier Bank ever notified her that she had been
13 dismissed. She states further that she has repeatedly sought any documents evidencing the
14 alleged dismissal, but that Defendants have never produced any. (Docket No. 22 at 5.)

15 Even more importantly, there is a genuine dispute about the date on which Plaintiff
16 entered into a contract with CD Mitchell & Co. Defendant makes much of the assertion that
17 Plaintiff entered into a fixed term contract with CD Mitchell from April 30, 2010 to May 31,
18 2010. (See SUMF 22-25, Docket No. 17-2 at 6) (stating that "Plaintiff was recruited by
19 C.D. Mitchell on April 30, 2010 as a temporary employee."). The temporary employment
20 agreement that Plaintiff signed was also dated April 30. (Docket No. 17-7.) Yet Plaintiff
21 states that she remembers signing this contract one to two weeks after she began working

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1 for Scotiabank, when she was told that she had to sign it in order to receive payment for her
2 past work. (Docket No. 22 at 5.) And in his deposition, Troy Wright, the CEO of
3 Scotiabank Puerto Rico at the time, admitted that it was “strange” the agreement was dated
4 April 30. (Docket No. 22-5 at 32-33.) According to Mr. Wright, the letters were not
5 prepared until the 3rd of May, and may have been signed May 3rd, 4th or 5th. (Id.)

6 These details are significant, because they show that Plaintiff may have had a
7 reasonable expectation of continued employment with Scotiabank. In such cases, Law 80
8 provides:

9 Notwithstanding what is provided in the first paragraph of this section, the
10 mere fact that an employee renders services under a fixed term contract, in
11 itself, shall not have the automatic effect of depriving him/her of the
12 protection of §§ 185a-185m of this title, if the practice and circumstances
13 involved or other evidence in the contracting were of such a nature that they
14 tend to indicate the creation of an expectation of continuity in employment, or
15 appears to be a bona fide employment contract for an indefinite period of time.
16 In these cases, the employees thus affected shall be deemed to have been
17 contracted for an unspecific period of time.

18
19 29 L.P.R.A. § 185a.

20 These considerations distinguish this case from the one that Scotiabank cites
21 repeatedly in its brief, Acosta-Ramirez v. Banco Popular de P.R., 2012 WL 1123602
22 (D.P.R. March 30, 2012). In Acosta-Ramirez, the court found that “[p]laintiffs have not
23 presented evidence that would indicate the employee had a reasonable expectation that
24 he/she would continue to be employed by the employer, in which case he/she would be
25 considered to have been hired for an indefinite term and, thus, within Law 80’s remedy.” Id.
26 at *10. In stark contrast, here Plaintiff has presented several pieces of evidence that indicate

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1 she had a reasonable expectation of continued employment. We find that she has presented
2 a triable case as to whether she falls within Law 80's protection.

3 Scotiabank's remaining arguments are easily rejected. In Part A, we explained our
4 reasons for rejecting the argument that the P&A Agreement could isolate Scotiabank from
5 liability for Plaintiff's Law 80 claims. (See supra at 10.) The contract could not immunize
6 Scotiabank from legal liability for actions it took after executing the agreement, nor could it
7 extinguish Plaintiff's rights before those rights had accrued. We also find that at this stage,
8 the contract between Plaintiff and CD Mitchell cannot be classified as a "bona fide" short-
9 term agreement under 29 L.P.R.A. § 185k. Under § 185k, a a short-term contract may be
10 "bona fide" if it is executed within the first day or ten days of an employee's work, and if it
11 clearly states that it is to provide "special tasks or tasks of a certain duration. . ." Given the
12 uncertainty regarding when Plaintiff entered the contract, and the assurances she claims to
13 have received of future continued employment, we cannot conclude that the agreement falls
14 within the definition of § 185k.

15 For the foregoing reasons, Defendant's motion for summary judgment on Plaintiff's
16 Law 80 claims will be denied.

17 We now turn to Plaintiff's Law 100 claims. To state a prima facie case of age
18 discrimination under Law 100, a plaintiff must carry the initial burden of "demonstrating
19 that he was actually or constructively discharged, and (2) alleging that the decision was
20 discriminatory." Hoyos v. Telecorp Communications, Inc., 488 F.3d 1, 6 (1st Cir. 2007)
21 (citations omitted). After the plaintiff has carried this initial burden, the burden shifts to the

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1 defendant, “to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the discharge was made for
2 good cause as contemplated by Law 80.” Id.

3 Plaintiff has met her initial burden of demonstrating that she was actually or
4 constructively discharged by Scotiabank. She has also alleged that the reason for her
5 dismissal was age discrimination. (Docket No. 22-31 at 5-6.) In her complaint, she alleges
6 that Scotiabank retained many of Plaintiff’s younger colleagues, even though there was no
7 difference in the performance of her and her younger colleagues. (Id.) In a statement under
8 penalty of perjury by a Scotiabank human resources executive, Carmen Rodríguez Rivera
9 (“Rodríguez”), Rodríguez admits that “most of the employees that had been temporarily
10 hired by C.D. Mitchell were hired by Scotiabank on June 1, 2010.” (Docket No. 17-3.)
11 Plaintiff was not hired by Scotiabank, but Rodríguez’s statement does not provide a reason
12 why. (Id.) The fact that Scotiabank did not hire Plaintiff, at the time a fifty-five year old
13 woman, but did hire most of the other C.D. Mitchell employees, raises the possibility of age
14 discrimination. Moreover, Scotiabank has failed to explain why it made the hiring decisions
15 it did, or how and whether age was a consideration. Nor has Scotiabank presented much, if
16 any, evidence to show that its decision to discharge Plaintiff was made for “good cause”
17 within Law 80. (Docket No. 22.) Therefore, we find that Scotiabank has failed to meet its
18 burden as defined by the First Circuit. Hoyos, 488 F.3d at 6. Scotiabank’s motion for
19 summary judgment on Plaintiff’s Law 100 claims will be denied.

20
21 **IV.**

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Conclusion

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3

For the foregoing reasons, we hereby **DENY** the FDIC's motion to dismiss (Docket No. 18). We also **DENY** Scotiabank's motion for summary judgment (Docket No. 17).

4

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 17th day of January, 2013.

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8

s/José Antonio Fusté
JOSE ANTONIO FUSTE
United States District Judge